

How have donations received thus far been used?

By Sr. Mary McCauley, BVM, former Pastoral
Administrator of St. Bridget, Postville

What you receive as gift give as gift! (Mt. 10:8)

These words from the Gospel of Matthew have and continue to serve as the guiding principle for the monetary gifts given to the St. Bridget Hispanic Ministry Fund. Every donation was graciously and gratefully received as a gift and every donation became a gift in one form or another for our Hispanic brothers and sisters affected by the Immigration Raid at Agriprocessors on May 12, 2008. As good stewards of the gifts given to our St. Bridget Hispanic Ministry Fund we share with you the various ways in which the gifts given became gift for others.

A major portion of the donations received were used to assist our Hispanic brothers and sisters with the following needs:

- General Living Expenses: Rent, Utilities, Phone
- Medical and Dental Costs (Partial)
- Legal assistance
- Transportation Costs: airline tickets to Guatemala; mileage reimbursement for drivers (Taking people to appointments in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Chicago, Omaha, etc); Buses taking groups of people to O'Hare, Omaha etc.
- Documentation and Vital Record expenditures (Apostilles, birth certificates, passports)
- Gift Cards: Used for food and personal items not available through the Food Pantry
- Salaries for increased staff to respond to the needs of our people
- Office technology updates required to respond adequately to this humanitarian disaster
- Clerical supplies
- Office utilities...phone...internet
- Food costs unrelated to what could be obtained at the Postville Food Pantry
- Postage
- Assistance for witnesses

